



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

July 2, 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South Fourth
Hamilton, MT 59840-2853

RECEIVED

JUL 05 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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**Subject: Information Request for MDT Safety Improvement Project
SF069 – FLASHER – N STEVENSVILLE
HSIP 203-1(13)4
Control Number 6073**

Dear Ravalli County Commissioners:

The Montana Department of Transportation is evaluating potential environmental impacts that may be associated with the above project. With this letter, we are requesting your assistance to help us conduct a thorough analysis and we are inviting the Ravalli County Commissioners to provide comments or helpful information on the proposed project.

The proposed subject project would involve safety improvements on State Secondary Route 203 (S-203). Proposed improvements consist of adding post mounted flashers to existing curve warning signs at the intersection of S-203 with Ambrose Creek Road and Moise Lane. Signing will be upgraded in the area as well. The intent of the project is to address the identified accident trend involving single vehicle off road crashes. Please review the enclosed Preliminary Field Review (PFR) Report for additional details about the proposed project.

The following information is requested from the Ravalli County Commissioners. Responses to these items will be incorporated into the environmental documentation on this proposed project.

1. Does Ravalli County have comments, questions, and/or specific environmental concerns about this proposed action?
2. Does Ravalli County have actions planned or underway in the vicinity of the proposed project that could affect or be affected by the proposed action?
3. Please provide the name, mailing address, and office phone number of the designated contact for this proposed project.

← Planning?

If you have comments, concerns, or potentially helpful information, please contact MDT at your soonest convenience. To ensure that your comments are captured with the correct project, in all correspondence please refer to the Project Name, Number and Control Number listed in the subject line. If MDT does not receive a written response within thirty (30) calendar days, we will assume that Ravalli County has no comments or concerns about the proposed project.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Kilcrease at 406-523-5842. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Eric Thunstrom
Civil Engineer Specialist
Environmental Services

Encl.

cc:	Dwane Kailey	Missoula District Administrator
	Tom Hansen, PE	Environmental Services Engineering Section Supervisor
	Dan Smith, PE	Environmental Services Bureau Chief
	Ivan B. Ulberg, PE	MDT Traffic Project Engineer
	Susan Kilcrease	Environmental Services
	File	



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PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

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SEP 28 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL

Memorandum

To: Duane E. Williams, P.E.
Traffic and Safety Engineer

From: Ivan B. Ulberg, P.E. *IBU*
Traffic Project Engineer

Date: September 22, 2006

Subject: HSIP 203-1(13)4, U.P.N. 6073 000
SF069 – Flasher – N Stevensville
Work Type 410 – Traffic Signals & Lighting

We request that you approve the Preliminary Field Review Report for the subject project.

Approved *Duane Williams* Date *Sept. 26, 2006*
Duane E. Williams, P.E.
Traffic and Safety Engineer

We are requesting comments from the following individuals who have also received a copy of the report. We will assume their concurrences if no comments are received within three weeks of the approval date.

Cc: (all with attachments)

D. Kailey, Missoula D.A.
M. McArthur, Construction Bureau
P.R. Ferry, Highways Engineer
K.M. Barnes, Bridge Engineer
J.H. Horton, Right-of-Way Bureau
D.W. Jensen, Fiscal Programming
D. Krings, Road Design Engineer
D.C. Bolan, Traffic Engineer
D.D. Moeller, Missoula Maintenance
I.B. Ulberg, Traffic Project Engineer
S. Rowell, Engineering Information

~~J. Kiley~~, Environmental Bureau
S.C. Stack, Missoula DESS
S.S. Straehl, Planning Division
M. Goodman, Hydraulics Engineer
D.J. Blacker, Maintenance Division
M. Strizich, Materials Bureau
Loran Frazier, Engineering
T.S. Martin, Consultant Design
P.A. Jomini, Safety Management
R.B. Jackson, Geotechnical Engineer
FHWA (HOP-MT)

Preliminary Field Review Report

The field review for the subject project was held July 28, 2006 with the following personnel in attendance:

Ivan Ulberg	Traffic Project Engineer	Helena
Tom Hanek	Safety Management	Helena
Sandie Stiffler	Traffic-Safety	Helena
Allen Levens	Traffic Electrical	Helena
Larry Talseth	Traffic	Helena
Glen Cameron	Traffic Engineer	Missoula

Proposed Scope of Work

The proposed project has been nominated through the Safety Engineering Improvement Program for safety improvements on State Secondary Route 203. Proposed improvements consist of adding post mounted flashers to existing curve warning signs at the intersection of S-203 with Ambrose Creek Rd. and Moise Ln. Signing will be upgraded in the area as well (see discussion points below). The intent is to address the identified accident trend involving single vehicle off road crashes.

The following decisions were made at the field review for this project.

- *Install post mounted flashers as recommended, but replace the existing curve warning signs and advisory speed plates.*
- *Install route marker signs in advance of the intersection that indicate S-203 makes a ninety degree turn.*
- *Remove existing chevrons at the intersection. They are inappropriately placed and cannot be reset where needed because of Ambrose Creek Rd. and Moise Ln.*
- *Install destination signs at the intersection indicating you need to turn to continue on to either Florence (northbound vehicles) or Stevensville (southbound vehicles).*

This project will be designed by the Traffic Section.

Benefit/Cost Analysis/Cost Estimate

The initial cost estimate and benefit/cost ratio is as follows:

Route	Description	Reference Post	Cost Estimate	B/C Ratio
S-203	N of Stevensville	RP 4.2 – 5.3	\$ 15,900	9.46

The cost estimate is as provided by the Safety Management section for the purposes of calculating a B/C ratio. A more complete cost estimate will be prepared as design progresses.

Project Location and Limits

This project is located within the Missoula Financial District at the intersection of S-203 with Ambrose Creek Rd. and Moise Ln., RP 4.2 - 5.3 on S-203, approximately 4 miles northeast of Stevensville, MT, in Ravalli County. A map is included on the last page of this report for ease of reference.

Physical Characteristics

This section of S-203 is in an open rural area surrounded by farm fields on level terrain. The area is currently being subdivided into single family residential neighborhoods. Secondary Route 203 is running east going into the intersection, turns 90°, and is running north after the intersection. Ambrose Creek Rd. (a paved road) runs east from the intersection, while Moise Ln. (a gravel road) runs south from the intersection. Secondary Route 203 is on a 179.9 ft long, 50° curve to the left at the intersection. The entire area formed by extending the 114.5 ft long tangent lines of the curve to their intersection point is paved (the area on the outside of the curve). There is no roadway lighting, median, curb and gutter, or sidewalk on any of the roads at the intersection.

This section of S-203 was built under project S-120(1) in 1956. It was last improved in 1993 under project RTS 203-1(2) with a plant mix overlay, seal and cover. Secondary Route 203 has a 24 ft paved top width, two 12 ft travel lanes, and no shoulders.

Traffic Data

Following is traffic data:

2006 ADT = 4,260	(Present)
2008 ADT = 4,570	(Letting)
2018 ADT = 6,440	(Future)
DHV = 690	
T = 1.9 %	
EAL = 41	
AGR = 3.5 %	

Accident History

For the period of January 1, 1994 through December 31, 2003 (10.0 years) there were 13 recorded crashes between RP 4.2 and 5.3, 5 of which are addressable with the proposed improvements. Of the 5 addressable crashes 1 was an injury accident, which resulted in a total of 3 injuries. There were no fatal accidents among the 5 addressable crashes and 4 crashes that involved property damage only.

Major Design Features

Design Speed – Secondary Route 203 traverses level terrain in a rural area and is functionally classified as a major collector. The posted speed limit on S-203 is 60 MPH. Design speed using Geometric Design Criteria for a Rural Collector in level terrain is 60 MPH.

Horizontal Alignment – There will be no changes to the existing horizontal alignment.

Vertical Alignment – There will be no changes to the existing vertical alignment.

Typical Section – Secondary Route 203 has a 24 ft paved top width, two 12 ft travel lanes, no shoulders, and no curb and gutter or sidewalk.

Road Design

There will be no surfacing involvement.

Hydraulics

There will be no hydraulics involvement.

Bridge

There will be no bridge involvement.

Traffic Engineering

Traffic will prepare the plans needed to revise signing, remove chevrons, and install post mounted flashers with the advance curve warning signs.

Right of Way

Right-of-way for Ambrose Creek Rd. and Moise Ln. needs to be determined, along with how it ties into the right-of-way for S-203.

Utilities/Railroads

Utility agreements may be needed to bring power to the proposed post-mounted flashers. There will be no involvement with railroads.

Geotechnical

There will be no geotechnical involvement.

Environmental

No apparent significant environmental impacts or issues were identified. A Categorical Exclusion is anticipated for this project.

Survey

A survey will be needed. The survey should identify all topographic features, including centerline, edge of oil, underground and overhead utilities, culverts, approaches, signs, and mailboxes. Cross sections will be needed at locations where the curve warning signs are being placed.

Public Involvement

Level A public involvement is required.

Ready Date

This projects ready date will be established after the over-ride process is completed.

Traffic Control

Traffic will be maintained through the project construction with appropriate signing, flagging, etc., in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

HSIP 203-1(13)4
SF069-FLASHER-N STEVENSVILLE
UPN 6073000

